

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050983

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, MPOL, MX

SUBJECT: US-MEXICO MILITARY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 34583

1. FYI: FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND ON US-MEXICAN MILITARY
ARRANGEMENTS STEMMING FROM WORLD WAR II.

2. IN MARCH 1941, THE US AND MEXICO ANNOUNCED THAT THEY
HAD ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE AID THE TWO
COUNTRIES WOULD EXTEND TO EACH OTHER IN THE CASE OF
AGGRESSION AGAINST EITHER OF THEM. THESE DISCUSSIONS LED
TO AGREEMENTS ON U.S.-MEXICAN MILITARY COOPERATION. ON
DECEMBER 24, 1941, MEXICAN PORTS AND AIRFIELDS WERE MADE
AVAILABLE TO U.S. FORCES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. IN
FEBRUARY 1942, THE JOINT MEXICAN-U.S. DEFENSE COMMISSION
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(JMUSDC) WAS FOUNDED. ON THE U.S. SIDE THE JMUSDC WAS
ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 9030 OF FEBRUARY 27, 1942,
AS AMENDED BY EO 10692 OF DECEMBER 22, 1956.

3. DURING THE WAR YEARS, THE JMUSDC DEALT WITH THE
FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- MEXICO'S ROLE IN HEMISPHERE DEFENSE.

- AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN MEXICO.

- DEFENSE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA (TO INCLUDE AIRCRAFT DETECTOR STATIONS).

- JOINT PLANNING ON MUTUAL SECURITY MATTERS.

- U.S. LEND-LEASE TO MEXICO.

- INCREASED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND MEXICAN BORDER UNITS.

- PREPARATION FOR SQUADRON 201'S ROLE IN COMBAT IN THE PACIFIC.

4. AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE JMUSDC COMPLETED A DEFENSE PLAN, STILL THEORETICALLY IN FORCE, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IMPLEMENTED BY TREATY OR EXECUTIVE LAND AGREEMENT. THE PLAN CONTEMPLATES COOPERATION ON DEFENSE ISSUES, BUT DID NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO U.S. BASES OR ENTRY INTO MEXICO BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO SERVE AT MEXICAN MILITARY BASES OR FACILITIES.

5. MEXICAN-U.S. JOINT DEFENSE COMMISSION IS STILL IN CONFIDENTIAL

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EXISTENCE. COMMISSION IS BASED IN WASHINGTON AND ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AND MEXICAN MILITARY ATTACHES IN WASHINGTON ALONG WITH MEXICAN EMBASSY ADVISOR (MINISTER SALVADOR CAMPOS ICARDO) AND STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISOR (DAVID E. SIMCOX, ARA/MEX).

6. WE ARE POUCHING A FACT SHEET ON JOINT COMMISSION TO EMBASSY ATTENTION FRANK STARRS.

VANCE

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NNN

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